CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

JUN 4 - 1936

Weekly Bulletin

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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XV, No. 17 May 23, 1936 GUY P. JONES EDITOR

Distribution of Tuberculosis Mortality in the United States

Dr. L. L. Lumsden, Medical Director of the United States Public Health Service, and Dr. C. C. Dauer, Assistant Professor of Preventive Medicine, Tulane Graduate School of Medicine, are the authors of Public Health Bulletin No. 225 issued by the United States Public Health Service and entitled "Some Features of Tuberculosis Mortality Distribution in the United States."

The report is most interesting and the conclusions are striking. The authors state:

> "The evidence suggests that, besides (a) poverty, (b) crowding, (c) poor general living conditions with respect to housing, diet, occupation and social habits, (d) average seasonal temperature, (e) altitude and (f) frequency and amount of spread of tuberculous infection through personal association, there are factors of as yet undetermined nature which influence importantly the regional and the age-sex-race distribution of tuberculosis mortality in the United States."

Because the tuberculosis mortality rate has decreased throughout the United States in such spectacular fashion many public health workers are inclined to regard the subject of tuberculosis control as closed. This report emphasizes the fact that tuberculosis as a public health problem is still a decidedly live subject.

Some of the factors that have to do with the remarkable decrease in mortality from this disease are known definitely, but there are many others involved, concerning which no knowledge has been developed. Many of the social and economic factors are matters of common knowledge, but from a medical point of view many important factors in the etiology of this disease are still unknown.

In discussing the high mortality rate among white persons in the southwestern states the authors state that this is presumably due largely, perhaps entirely, to the fact that these states are to varying large extents resort "cure-seeker" states for persons who have developed active tuberculosis in other states or countries; but the comparatively high rate among white persons in the region composed of Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and Maryland is as yet entirely inexplicable and stands out as the most striking and interesting feature of the geographical distribution of tuberculosis mortality in this country. They state that the explanation is not to be found in differences in latitude, longitude or seasonal temperature averages. Differences in economic and general living conditions, the recording of mortality statistics and the age grouping of the state populations do not throw any satisfactory light on the mystery. Furthermore, marked differences between the rate for New Mexico and that for Arizona, as well as other western states, are not satisfactorily explicable from the data now on hand.

These are but a few of the very interesting facts that have been developed through this study of the distribution of tuberculosis mortality in the United States. None can read the report without being convinced that we have still much to learn relative to the epidemiology of this communicable disease.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE DREAMS

By DR. M. P. ROSENAU, Head of the New Department of Preventive Medicine at University of North Carolina.

"Preventive medicine dreams of a time when there shall be enough for all, and every man shall bear his share of labor in accordance with his ability, and every man shall possess sufficient for the needs of his body and the demands of health.

"These things he shall have as a matter of justice and not of charity.

"Preventive medicine dreams of a time when there shall be no unnecessary suffering and no premature deaths; when the welfare of the people shall be our highest concern; when humanity and mercy shall replace greed and selfishness; and it dreams that all these things will be accomplished through the wisdom of man.

"Preventive medicine dreams of these things, not with the hope that we, individually, may participate in them, but with the joy that we may aid in their coming to those who shall live after us.

"When young men have vision the dreams of old men come true."

RODENT SURVEY CONTINUED

The rodent survey conducted by the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection was continued in sections of Contra Costa, Kern, Tulare, Shasta, Modoc and Lassen counties. More than 1900 squirrels were collected and examined. Many thousands of fleas were also collected and sent to the laboratory for identification.

Beginning March 1st the personnel of the U. S. P. H. S. rodent control field force in California was transferred to the State Department of Public Health and assigned to the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection. These men during the month inspected 17,396 acres of land and reinspected 38,370 acres. Carbon sulphide and poisoned grain were used in control. Investigation was made of a heavy infestation of meadow mice in one section of San Mateo County. Excellent results were achieved through the use of poisoned grain.

In sports and elsewhere you will do best by keeping body and mind relaxed. Go as fast as you like, but do not hurry.—U. C. Extension Division.

MUSSEL QUARANTINE ORDER ISSUED

The following quarantine order has been issued by Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the California State Department of Public Health:

"A quarantine of all mussels from the ocean shore of California from the southern boundary of Ventura County north to the California-Oregon boundary with the exception of the bay of San Francisco is hereby established. All health officers and food inspectors are hereby instructed to enforce the provisions of this quarantine and to prohibit the taking, sale, or offering for sale, of mussels gathered in the district specified. This quarantine order shall be effective for the period May 19, 1936, to September 30, 1936.

"Said action is taken for the preservation of the public health."

This quarantine has been established annually for a number of years. It was issued earlier than usual this year because of two fatal cases of mussel poisoning of residents of Los Angeles who gathered mussels and ate them in Ventura County. Never before have poisonous mussels been discovered so far south in California. Heretofore the quarantine area has extended from Monterey County to the Oregon state line. Since the above quarantine order was issued it has become necessary, however, to include the coastal area of Los Angeles County and investigations are being made as far south as the Mexican border in order to determine if poisonous shellfish may be recovered in southern waters of California.

It will be noted that this quarantine will be effective until the end of September. Ordinarily the peak of toxicity in these shellfish comes about the middle of July. Early in the season the toxicity is comparatively low and after July it diminishes gradually until by the end of September little or none is discoverable. It is important, however, that the provisions of this quarantine order be observed most carefully during the entire period. Some individuals are more susceptible to this type of poisoning than others and small quantities of shellfish might produce marked symptoms of severe illness.

ENVIRONMENT AND ITS EFFECT UPON MAN

A symposium under the above title will be held at the Harvard School of Public Health August 24 to August 29, 1936. The program covers a wide range of subject matter. One entire session will be devoted to "Pneumoconioses." Air conditioning in normal life, hospitals and the industries will receive considerable attention. Other subjects cover "Fatigue," "Air-Borne Disease," "Bacteria and Pollen in the Air," "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning" and "Toxic Dusts."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF LIFE SAVING

A comparison of deaths in California in 1911 with deaths in 1935 reveals the tremendous savings that have been effected in human lives during the past twenty-five years.

INFANTS

In 1911 10.4 per cent of all deaths in the state were those of infants, but in 1935 the percentage of infant deaths was 5.5.

CHILDREN

In 1911 6.9 per cent of all deaths were in children between the ages of 1 and 14 years, while in 1935 the percentage of deaths in this age group was 3.3.

YOUNG ADULTS

In 1911 among individuals from 15 to 44 years of age the percentage of deaths to the total was 28.2, while in 1935 the percentage of deaths in this age group was 16.9.

THE PRODUCTIVE AGE

In 1911 the percentage of deaths among those 15 to 34 years of age was 16.6 per cent, while the percentage among individuals of this age group in 1935 was but 8.9 per cent. Since tuberculosis in 1911 exacted heavy tolls among individuals in this age group, the remarkable reduction in tuberculosis mortality is to a large extent responsible for the savings here recounted.

ADULTS

The percentage of deaths among those over 45 years of age increased in 1935 as compared with 1911, the percentages being 13.0 and 11.9, respectively. Among those 55 to 65 years of age the percentage increased from 13.1 in 1911 to 17.3 in 1935 and among those over 65 the percentage increased from 29.5 in 1911 to 44.0 in 1935.

It will be noted that the greatest life saving has occurred in the younger age groups among those under 45 years of age. The effect has been to postpone the age of death, resulting in higher percentages of deaths among older people. The application of the principles of preventive medicine is largely responsible for this remarkable record. It is estimated that the population of California in 1911 was almost two and one-half million and in 1935 it is estimated that the population was six and one-quarter million. In 1911 14 out of every 1000 people died. In 1935 11.5 individuals out of every 1000 population died. Had the 1911 death rate prevailed last year there would have been 15,686 more deaths than actually occurred.

In commenting on longer and safer lives in the United States the *Illinois Health Messenger* recently stated that life is safer and longer in America than in any except the Scandinavian countries of Europe. People live from one to two years longer on the average in the United States than in England, France, Germany or Italy. This is not due alone to a favorable natural environment, but to no small degree from the cultivation and utilization of preventive medicine.

The following table gives the total numbers of deaths in California by age groups and percentages of the total for the years 1911 and 1935:

Total Deaths by Age Groups

	1911		*1935*	
	Number	*Per cent*	*Number*	*Per cent*
Under 1	3,528	10.4	3,973	5.5
1–4	1,405	4.1	1,132	1.6
5–14	942	2.8	1,253	1.7
15–24	2,215	6.5	2,531	3.5
25–34	3,432	10.1	3,920	5.4
35–44	3,937	11.6	5,786	8.0
45–54	4,039	11.9	9,391	13.0
55–65	4,447	13.1	12,583	17.3
65+	10,067	29.5	31,931	44.0
	34,012	100.0	72,500	100.0

HEALTH OFFICERS NEWLY APPOINTED

Dr. John Decker has been appointed health officer of Plumas County to succeed Dr. Wilbur C. Batson. Dr. Decker's place of residence is Delleker.

Mr. James P. Morton has been appointed city health officer of Placerville to succeed Mr. A. H. Greeley.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending May 16, 1936

Chickenpox

470 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 2, Oakland 43, Piedmont 10, Contra Costa County 2, Martinez 3, Richmond 1, Fresno County 11, Fresno 11, Orland 1, Eureka 1, Kern County 5, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 29, Alhambra 2, Beverly Hills 4, Burbank 11, Culver City 4, Glendale 6, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 5, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 28, Los Angeles 45, Montebello 1, Pasadena 3, Santa Monica 3, Whittier 1, Torrance 2, Lynwood 2, South Gate 4, Bell 1, Madera County 2, Ross 2, Merced 1, Monterey County 5, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 1, Napa County 1, Calistoga 2, Nevada County 1, Orange County 24, Anaheim 7, Brea 1, Fullerton 2, Santa Ana 6, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 1, Tustin 2, San Clemente 3, Riverside County 4, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 3, Ontario 1, San Diego County 4, National City 1, San Diego 15, San Francisco 63, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 2, Stockton 5, San Luis Obispo County 5, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Clara County 9, Palo Alto 7, San Jose 10, Santa Clara 3, Sunnyvale 2, Siskiyou County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Turlock 1, Ventura County 3, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 3, Yuba County 1.

Diphtheria

27 cases: Oakland 4, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 3, Los Angeles 6, Placer County 1, Riverside County 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 4, Lodi 1, Stockton 2, Santa Barbara 2.

German Measles

436 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 10, Albany 6, Berkeley 69, Oakland 61, Piedmont 25, San Leandro 3, Contra Costa County 12, Hercules 1, Martinez 1, Fresno County 2, Eureka 22, Fortuna 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 16, Claremont 4, Long Beach 15, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 2, Bell 1, Marin County 1, Ross 2, Monterey County 1, Calistoga 1, Orange County 3, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 1, Huntington Beach 5, Newport Beach 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 7, La Habra 1, Placentia

1, Tustin 3, Colfax 9, Riverside 11, Sacramento 3, Ontario 9, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 12, San Francisco 42, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 2, Stockton 19, San Luis Obispo County 1, Paso Robles 2, San Luis Obispo 8, Daly City 1, Menlo Park 4, Santa Barbara County 1, Benicia 1, Vallejo 1, Petaluma 1, Turlock 1, Ventura County 2, Davis 1, Woodland 1.

Influenza

1586 cases: Kern County 36, Los Angeles County 4, Burbank 2, Los Angeles 22, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Fort Bragg 14, Merced County 3, Nevada County 29, Riverside 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Francisco 2, San Joaquin County 317, Lodi 966, Siskiyou County 186.

Malaria

4 cases: Butte County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1.

Measles

2066 cases: Alameda County 5, Alameda 9, Albany 3, Berkeley 22, Livermore 4, Oakland 142, Piedmont 17, Pleasanton 3, San Leandro 2, Butte County 2, Colusa County 29, Colusa 2, Contra Costa County 19, Hercules 8, Martinez 7, Pinole 21, Pittsburg 27, Richmond 1, Crescent City 1, Fresno County 19, Fresno 15, Kingsbury 2, Reedley 1, Glenn County 1, Orland 1, Imperial County 2, Kern County 32, Bakersfield 1, Taft 1, Kings County 1, Lake County 3, Los Angeles County 190, Alhambra 19, Arcadia 11, Avalon 2, Azusa 3, Beverly Hills 7, Burbank 14, Compton 11, Culver City 8, El Monte 2, El Segundo 2, Glendale 61, Glendora 3, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 17, Inglewood 4, La Verne 1, Long Beach 13, Los Angeles 324, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 15, Montebello 10, Pasadena 68, Pomona 20, Redondo 5, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 10, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 20, Sierra Madre 3, South Pasadena 6, Whittier 11, Torrance 4, Lynwood 9, Hawthorne 4, South Gate 6, Monterey Park 5, Bell 6, Gardena 1, Madera County 19, Madera 1, Marin County 16, Ross 5, Mariposa County 2, Merced County 15, Monterey County 15, Pacific Grove 2, Calistoga 1, Napa 2, Nevada County 1, Orange County 28, Anaheim 4, Fullerton 5, Orange 4, Santa Ana 4, Laguna Beach 2, Tustin 3, Colfax 1, Riverside County 42, Corona 25, Riverside 39, Sacramento County 1, San Bernardino County 10, Colton 1, Needles 1, Ontario 14, Redlands 11, San Bernardino 9, San Diego County 26, Chula Vista 2, Coronado 1, Oceanside 7, San Diego 88, San Francisco 201, Stockton 4, Paso Robles 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 7, Burlingame 8, Daly City 4, Redwood City 16, San Mateo 10, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 9, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 4, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 5, Willow Glen 4, Shasta County 3, Solano County 1, Benicia 4, Vallejo 9, Healdsburg 1, Stanislaus County 1, Turlock 2, Patterson 8, Tehama County 7, Red Bluff 11, Tulare 1, Ventura County 10, Oxnard 1, Ventura 13, Yolo County 1, Woodland 1.

Mumps

691 cases: Alameda 1, Albany 8, Oakland 15, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 44, Martinez 1, Pinole 4, Richmond 1, Fresno County 19, Fresno 16, Orland 26, Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 30, Alhambra 12, Beverly Hills 14, Burbank 9, Compton 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 49, Los Angeles 63, Monrovia 1, Montebello 7, Pasadena 11, Pomona 13, Redondo 2, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 6, Lynwood 8, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 2, Bell 1, Madera County 1, Marin County 2, Yosemite National Park 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Nevada County 15, Orange County 7, Fullerton 6, Santa Ana 22, Placer County 3, Colfax 2, Riverside County 17, Corona 1, Riverside 7, Sacramento County 8, Sacramento 38, Ontario 6, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 6, San Diego 35, San Francisco 2, Stockton 4, Tracy 5, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 6, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 2, Mountain View 1, San Jose 14, Sunnyvale 1, Watsonville 5, Siskiyou County 1, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 4, Modesto 4, Patterson 38, Tehama County 3, Red Bluff 6, Exeter 2, Ventura County 13, Fillmore 1, Ventura 7, Woodland 4, Yuba County 2, Marysville 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

46 cases: Oakland 4, Piedmont 1, San Leandro 1, Contra Costa County 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 6, Los Angeles 15, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Merced 1, Santa Ana 1, San Bernardino County 2, Chula Vista 1, San Francisco 8, Santa Barbara 1.

Scarlet Fever

356 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 4, Oakland 12, Piedmont 3, Butte County 7, Colusa 9, Pinole 1, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 8, Fresno 4, Imperial County 2, El Centra 1, Kern County 10, Bakersfield 3, Kings County 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles County 18, Alhambra 1, Burbank 3, Compton 1, Culver City 1, El Monte 1, Huntington Park 5, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 38, Pasadena 5, Pomona 2, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 2, Sierra Madre 1, South Pasadena 1, Torrance 2, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 2, Gardena 1, Merced County 1, Merced 2, Alturas 3, Napa County 2, Nevada County 3, Huntington Beach 2, Santa Ana 3, Tustin 1, Placer County 2, Auburn 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 7, Sacramento 6, San Bernardino County 3, Ontario 2, San Bernardino 2, Chula Vista 2, National City 1, San Diego 4, San Francicso 89, San Joaquin County 3, Manteca 2, Stockton 1, San Mateo County 3, Burlingame 1, Daly City 5, San Mateo 1, South San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 2, San Jose 3, Santa Cruz County 1, Siskiyou County 1, Benicia 1, Vallejo 1, Petaluma 2, Modesto 3, Oakland 1, Turlock 1, Red Bluff 1, Lindsay 3, Ventura County 5, Ventura 1, Yolo County 2, Winters 1, Yuba County 5.

Smallpox

2 cases: Santa Cruz County.

Typhoid Fever

7 cases: Calexico 1, Inglewood 1, Sacramento County 1, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 1, Marysville 1, California 1.*

Whooping Cough

463 cases: Alameda 14, Berkeley 20, Oakland 9, Piedmont 2, San Leandro 1, Contra Costa County 2, Pinole 3, Fresno County 7, Fresno 2, Kern County 16, Taft 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 32, Alhambra 4, Arcadia 2, Avalon 1, Beverly Hills 8, Burbank 1, Culver City 8, Glendale 7, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 23, Los Angeles 50, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 6, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 3, Santa Monica 3, Sierra Madre 1, South Pasadena 2, Torrance 1, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 2, Bell 8, Gardena 3, Yosemite National Park 2, Salinas 1, Nevada County 8, Orange County 1, Anaheim 2, Brea 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 7, Riverside 3, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 18, San Bernardino 7, San Diego County 21, La Mesa 1, National City 2, San Diego 56, San Francisco 30 San Joaquin County 5, Lodi 3, Stockton 9, San Luis Obispo 2, Daly City 3, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 2, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 2, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 2, Patterson 1, Santa Paula 5, Yolo County 5.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

8 cases: Glendale 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 3, Monrovia 1, Lynwood 1, Santa Rosa 1.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

4 cases: Long Beach 2, Riverside County 1, San Francisco 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

4 cases: Los Angeles 1, Sacramento County 1, San Diego 1, Santa Barbara County 1.

Pellagra

3 cases: Los Angeles County 2, San Francisco 1.

Poliomyelitis

6 cases: Fresno 1, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles 3, San Francisco 1.

Tetanus

One case: Ventura County.

Hookworm

One case: San Francisco.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

One case: Lassen County.

Trichinosis

One case: Burlingame.

Food Poisoning

14 cases: Los Angeles County 2, San Fernando 2, Redwood City 10.

Undulant Fever

5 cases: Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, San Fernando 1, Marin County 1, Ontario 1.

Actinomycosis

One case: Los Angeles.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

One case: Kern County.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

3 cases: Colfax 1, San Francisco 1, South San Francisco 1.

Rabies (Animal)

19 cases: Berkeley 2, Los Angeles County 5, Compton 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 5, Redondo 3, Torrance 1.

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* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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